Vol. VI. Numb. 77

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Country-man's *farther Account of our Losses and Disgraces by Sea, since* January *last; with his Reflections upon it. The* Observator's *Opinion of the Lord* Haversham's *Speech.*

From Saturday, November 22. to Wednesday, November 26. 1707.

Country-m. IF you please, Master, I'll go on with the Account of our Losses and Disgraces this Year by Sea.

Obs. With all my Heart, *Roger*; for I find some People are so lazy, that no less Authority than that of Madam *Necessity*, will make them mind their Business.

Country-m. July the 3d, we had Advice from *Dover*, of *June* the 30th, That their Militia was that Day in Arms, to pass a Review, and to be put in what Order they could, in Case the *French* Gallies should make them a Visit, as they threaten'd to do.

July the 8th, the Letters from the *Western* Ports, brought Advice, That seven *French* Men of War had given Chase to a *Dutch* Privateer, and took a Prize from him, as he was bringing it into *Plymouth*.

July the 10th, we had Advice from *Dover*, That six *French* Gallies, and two Men of War, sail'd by that Place for *Dungenness*.

July the 17th, we had Advice from *Dartmouth*, That the *Southampton* Frigat, and Colliers from *Wales*, put into *Torbay*, on Advice, that there was a *French* Squadron in the *Channel*.

July the 31st, Letters from *Bristol* said, That the Master of a *Virginia* Ship brought them Advice, that two *French* Privateers had taken off of the *Cape*, several *Virginia* Ships belonging to that Place, *Bidiford*, and *Leverpool*.

August the 7th, we had Advice from *Shields*, That a great Fly-boat was come in there, with 170 Seamen on Board, who gave an Account, that 66 Leagues off of the *North* Cape, seven *Dunkirk* Men of War fell in with the *Russia* Fleet, and took, burnt, and sunk 16 of them.

August the 12th, we had an Account from *Falmouth*, That the *Alliance* Packet-boat from *Lisbon*, was chas'd by five or six *French* Men of War, but got clear of them.

August the 19th, we had Advice of three Ships taken by *French* Privateers off of *Hull*.

August the 28th, we had Advice from *Harwich*, That five *French* Gallies fell in with the *Nightingall* on the Back of their Rocks, and took her. These Gallies were said to have some thousands of Men on Board, in Order to have landed, and burnt the Town. For my Part, Master, I don't like the *French* King's viewing our Coasts thus with his Gallies: I am afraid, if some effectual Methods be not taken to prevent it, by guarding our Coasts, he has a Design of a higher Nature upon us, than most People seem to think of; for this looks like an Experiment.

Obs. Go on with your Account, *Roger*, and leave your Reflections.

Country-m. August the 30th, we had Advice from *Shields*, That three *French* Privateers infested their Coast, took the *Tyger* of that Place, and were seen by the two Men of War that convoy'd the Coal-Fleet.

September the 2d, we had Letters from *Lisbon*, importing, That six *French* Men of War lay off of that Place, to prevent the sailing of the homeward-bound *English* Fleet.

September the 4th, Letters from *Shields* brought an Account, That two *French* Privateers of 30 Guns each, attack'd the *Feversham* Man of War, and Packton-Fleet, near *Whitby*, and after a sharp Engagement, and many Men kill'd on both Sides, sheer'd off.

That same Day, we had repeated Advice from *Lisbon*, That six *French* Men of War lay before that Harbour, so that no Ship could go in, or come out, without Danger ——; by which, the *English* homeward-bound Fleet, and the *Portuguese* outward-bound *Brazile*-Fleet, were both detain'd; and those *French* Ships had lain on that Coast 16 Days.

September the 6th, Letters from *Falmouth*, said, the *Expedition* Packet-boat, in her Way Home, met seven *French* Men of War off of the Land's End. And from *Portsmouth*, That 12 *French* Men of War and Privateers, from 70 to 24 Guns, met a Ship of *Stodt*, from *Oporto*, enquir'd of him for our *Portugal*-Fleet, and one of them took an *English* Runner of 12 Guns.

September the 18th, we had Advice, That the Design of those of *New-England* upon *Port-Royal*, in *Nova Scotia*, was defeated, the *French* having a strong Supply from *Canada*.

On the 20th, Letters from *Plymouth*, say, they had receiv'd an Express from Sir *Thomas Hardy*, that he was put into *Torbay* with six Men of War; that in their Return, they saw seven *French* Men of War and Privateers; and said, that the Sea was full of them. And at the same Time, the *Nathaniel* of *Gottenburgh*, brought Advice, that he saw 10 *French* Men of War and Privateers off of the *Lizzard*. By which you see, Master, that Sir *Thomas*, and his Squadron, escap'd very narrowly.

September the 23d, we had Advice from *Lisbon* of the 3d, That the *English* and other Ships, were still detain'd there by the *French* Men of War before that Harbour; and that the *Portuguese* were much afraid of their homeward-bound *Brazile*-Fleet.

September the 25th, we had Advice from *Plymouth*, That the *Morocco* Ambassador put in there, to wait for a stronger Convoy, not thinking the *Dover* Man of War, in which he was brought thither, enough: And that during his Stay at *Plymouth*, he was entertain'd at the Queen's Expence. So that here was both Loss of Money to her Majesty, and Loss of Reputation to her Majesty's Arms by Sea, for this *Barbarian* to carry News of to his own Country.

October the 9th, we had Advice by foreign Mails, That the Chevalier *de Fourbin* was put into *Brest* with four of the richest Prizes he had taken out of the *Russia* Fleet, and the best Effects he found in 30 other Ships, several of which he had burnt on the Coast of *Norway*; and that, among other Things, there were nine Chests of Money found on Board those Ships. Now, Master, it cannot enter into my Country Understanding, why the Convoy to our *Russia*-Fleet, might not have found out, and fought M. *de Fourbin*, as well as he found out, and took our Fleet? If it be said, they had no Orders so to do; pray, Master, whose Fault was that? Or, if it be said, they had no Knowledge of M. *de Fourbin*'s being that Way, I wonder why his Intelligence should be better than theirs? My old Master has told me several Times, that her Majesty (God bless her) pays 5000 *l. per Ann.* for Intelligence; but at this Rate, I think her Majesty had better ha' kept it in her Pocket, if those who receive that Money, can't find a Way to have Notice when *French* Squadrons

drons put to Sea. We ſee the *French* King's Intelligences are more exact; and that he has Men of War in Readineſs to intercept our Fleets going and coming.

Obſ. Keep within Bounds, *Roger*; beware of the *Crown-Office*.

Country-m. *Crown-Office*, Maſter! What, put us in the *Crown-Office* for ſerving the Crown? Has not our honourable Houſe of Commons appointed a Committee to conſider the State of the Navy? And has not the Lord High Admiral laid before the Houſe, the Number of Ships imploy'd at Sea every Month laſt Year, and in what Station? Then certainly, Maſter, you can't think me in the Wrong in what I ſay, ſince I ſpeak for her Majeſty's Intereſt, and that of my Country, that it may be inquir'd whether they were ſufficient, what Orders they had, and how they obey'd them.

Obſ. Well, *Roger*, I know thou ar't an honeſt Fellow; but Honeſty is not always the beſt Protection in this World, tho' it be always the beſt Policy. Therefore go on with thy Account of our Loſſes and Diſgraces by Sea.

Country-m. I will, Maſter, if you'll give me Leave to ſpend my Country Vardit once more upon *Monſieur Fourbin*'s Expedition.

Obſ. Go on then, *Roger*.

Country-m. Why, Maſter, I think, conſidering our Lord High Admiral's Relation to the Court of *Denmark*, that King ought to have teſtify'd his Reſentment to the Court of *France*, againſt *Fourbin*'s violating the Neuttality of his Ports, and taking our Ships there, in ſuch a Manner, as to have obtain'd Reparation; and if he had not, I believe we are able to have put the King of *Denmark* in a Condition to make Reprizals upon ſuch *French* Ships as come into his Harbours, or have as good Right to attack the *French* Ships there, as they have to attack ours. I ſhall only add, Maſter, that 'tis Pity, ſince we had Notice in our publick Prints ſo long before-hand, that *Fourbin* was ſailing *North* about for *Breſt*, we ſhould not have had a Squadron out to intercept him, as well as his Maſter ſent him out again with *Guy Tronin*, to intercept our *Lisbon*-Fleet. Upon my honeſt Word, Maſter, it not only makes *Roger*'s Blood boil over, but that of all other honeſt Country Volks, to hear how we are inſulted by the *French*; and that when they carry our Ships of War and others into Harbour, they cry, *Make more Room there for the Maſters of the Sea.* Who can bear this, to have *Engliſh*-men crow'd over thus in our own Dominions? It puts me in ſuch a Paſſion, Maſter, that I cannot think on't with Patience.

Obſ. I ſee thou ar't mad, *Roger*, but I hope thou wil't be recover'd by next Meeting, and finiſh thy Account of our Loſſes and Diſgraces by Sea this Year, with Calmneſs of Mind.

Country-m. Well, Maſter, at your Requeſt, I will adjourn it 'till next Time. But you muſt not go to Bed, 'till you give me your Opinion of the Lord *Haverſham*'s Speech: It has ten times more in it, than ever I durſt think off. His Lordſhip tells us, "Our Diſ-
"aſters at Sea are ſo many, a Man knows not where
"to begin ---: Our Ships have been taken by our
"Enemies, as the *Dutch* take our Herrings by Shoals
"upon our own Coaſts; nay, our Royal Navy it
"ſelf has not eſcap'd: And theſe are pregnant Miſ-
"fortunes, and big with innumerable Miſchiefs:
"Our Merchants are beggar'd; our Commerce
"broke; our Trade gone; our Staple and Manu-
"facture ruin'd; the Queen has loſt her Cuſtoms,
"and the Parliament muſt make good the Defici-
"encies; while in the mean Time, our Allies have
"an open and flouriſhing Trade; and our Ene-
"mies make Uſe both of our own Ships and Sea-
"men too, againſt us ---; that the Root of all our
"Misfortunes lie in the Miniſtry; and without a
"Change of Miniſtry, in his Opinion, no other
"Remedy will be effectual ---: That he thinks
"nothing more evident, than that our Miniſtry
"has been the Cauſe of theſe Misfortunes ---; and
"that the Want of following the Advice of the
"Lords in their Addreſs to the Queen in 1704,
"has loſt the Nation near ten Millions.

Obſ. The Privilege of a Peer is great, *Roger*; therefore we muſt beware of Reflections upon his Lordſhip's Speech, for Fear of a *Scandalum Magnatum*. Beſides, *Roger*, the Lords muſt be the Judges whether the Charge be true or falſe, and will take their Meaſures accordingly; therefore, if they don't cenſure his Lordſhip, it were unmannerly in you or me, or any Body elſe, to do it. Theſe Things are above us, *Roger*. So good Night.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd,

¶ Remarks on the reprinted Tryal of Henry Corniſh, Eſq; for conſpiring the Death of King Charles the II. &c. on Pretence of ſetting the Fact in a true Light. Wherein the real Cauſes of that Gentleman's being put to Death are made evident from Tryals publiſh'd by Authority. In Anſwer to the Slanders caſt upon the Memory of the ſaid Mr. Corniſh, and thoſe who join'd him, in Defence of the Rights of the Citizens of London, and of the Engliſh Conſtitution. With an Account of the Contradictions in the Evidence, and of the pretended Ryot at Guildhall, about the Election of Sheriffs, in 1682. with the Names of the Grand and Petty Juries that were empannell'd for the Tryal of the Alderman for his Life; of the Jury that found him and other worthy Citizens, guilty of a Ryot, and of the Sums they were fin'd in; of the Perſons who kept ſix Aldermen, and many of the Citizens out of Guildhall, by Military Force; of the Grand and Petty Juries againſt my Lord Ruſſel; and of Colonel Sidney's Jury; with Part of ſome Informations, taken upon Oath, by a Committee of the Houſe of Lords, who enquir'd into the Adviſers and Proſecutors in the Tryals of the Lord Ruſſel, Colonel Sidney, Sir Thomas Armſtrong, Mr. Corniſh, &c. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6 d.

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